

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY:REH

APPROVED BY C:HSOHNENFELDT

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

EUR - AAHARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 281144

NODIS

FOR CHARGE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: PNG CASE

REF: MOSCOW 17774

1. TIME DIPLOMATIC EDITOR JERRY SCHECHTER HAS ALSO CONTACTED DEPARTMENT RE PNG STORY, INDICATING THAT HE HAD HEARD BREMENT WAS VICTIM OF QUOTE MASSIVE RETALIATION UNQUOTE. SCHECHTER HAS AGREED TO HOLD OFF ON STORY FOR THE TIME BUT HAS WARNED THAT IF IT SPREADS FURTHER HE WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE TO WRITE IT. HE CLAIMS THAT OTHERS IN WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS ARE ALREADY ON TRAIL OF STORY.

2. FYI ONLY. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT USE THIS GUIDANCE WITHOUT SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM DEPARTMENT OR INDICATION THAT IT HAS ALREADY BEEN USED BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. INTERIM QUERIES ABOUT SECRET

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BREMENT'S RETURN SHOULD BE HANDLED BY SAYING THAT EMBASSY

HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF HIS PLANS.

3. BEGIN TEXT: "PRESS GUIDANCE. BREMENT EXPULSION:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT MARSHALL BREMENT, OUR POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN MOSCOW, HAS BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN RETALIATION FOR THE EXPULSION OF A SOVIET DIPLOMAT HERE?

QUOTE A. I CAN CONFIRM THAT WHILE MR. BREMENT WAS ON LEAVE FROM HIS POST IN MOSCOW THE SOVIETS WITHDREW HIS REENTRY VISA AND ASKED THAT HE NOT RETURN. THIS WAS CLEAR RETALIATION FOR AN ACTION WHICH WE HAD TAKEN SOME WEEKS BEFORE IN REQUESTING THAT THE SOVIET OFFICIAL NOT RETURN TO THE US FROM LEAVE IN THE USSR. THE SOVIET CONCERNED HAD BEEN ENGAGING IN IMPROPER ACTIVITIES IN THE US. MR. BREMENT, THE COUNSELLOR FOR POL. AFFAIRS AT OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN ABSOLUTELY NO IMPROPER ACTIVITIES IN THE SOVIET UNION.

QUOTE WE HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE SOVIETS RECONSIDER THEIR ACTION AGAINST BREMENT, POINTING OUT THAT HE HAS DONE NOTHING WHICH WOULD WARRANT THEIR REFUSAL TO PERMIT HIM TO RETURN TO HIS POST."

4. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WILL NOT RESPOND TO FURTHER QUESTIONS BEYOND CONFIRMING THAT BREMENT IS HERE IN THE US AWAITING A NEW ASSIGNMENT. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, PRESS RELEASES, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS, CT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE281144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLBARRY:REH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840093-1772
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761144/aaaablmh.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 17774
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNG CASE
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, US, UR, (BREMENT, MARSHALL), (SCHECHTER, JERRY)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006